

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FRENCH MEMO ON OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF A COMMON
ENERGY POLICY

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3485, (B) EC BRUSSELS 3121

1. SUMMARY: THE FRENCH HAVE NOW SUBMITTED TO THE COREPER
A MEMORANDUM OUTLINING FRENCH VIEWS ON THE OBJECTIVES OF A
COMMON ENERGY POLICY. THE MEMORANDUM STATES THT SUCH A
POLICY SHOULD INCLUDE THE AFIRMATIONS OF COMMUNITY EXTERNAL
SOLIDARITY, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A HOMOGENEOUS ENERGY MARKET
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL
INVESTMENTS. DECISIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN A COHERENT CON-
TEXT NOT IN ISOLATION. THE SECTION ON JOINT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS LINKS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
MECHANISMS WITH A COMMUNITY CHARACTER TO ASSURANCES OF THE
COMMUNITY NATURE OF ENERGY RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE PRO-
TECTED BY COMMUNITY MECHANISMS. FOR THIS WE READ: NO MSP
WITHOUT AGREEMENT BY THE UK TO COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ITS OIL.

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END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THE RELATIVELY UNSUCCESSFUL ENERGY COUNCIL
ON MARCH 25 (REF B) THE FRENCH UNDERTOOK TO PRESENT

THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT A COMMON COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOW SUBMITTED SUCH A PAPER TO THE MEMBER STATES AND THE ENERGY COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION. THE TWCT OF THIS PAPER FOLLOWS. THE PARAGRAPH NUMBERING FOLLOW THE NUMBERING IN THE FRENCH DOCUMENT.

BEGIN TEXT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN ROME ON 1 AND 2 DECEMBER 1975, IT IS NECESSARY TO JOINTLY DEFINE THE INITIAL CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF A COMMON ENERGY POLICY.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE PROPOSALS MADE ON 16 JANUARY 1976 BY THE COMMISSION AND EXAMINED ON 25 MARCH BY THE COMPETENT MINISTERS, CONSTITUTE A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT AND ENLIGHTENING CONTRIBUTION. IN ORDER THAT STUDIES NOW IN PROGRESS CAN QUICKLY LEAD TO CONCRETE DECISIONS, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FEELS THEY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY PROSPECTIVE REFLECTION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A GENUINE COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY.

IN SUBMITTING THE PRESENT MEMORANDUM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT INTENDS MAKING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THIS REFLECTION, TO PRESERVE THE IDENTITY OF THE EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY, IN FACT IT FEELS THAT IT IS NECESSARY THAT INITIAL DECISIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN A COHERENT CONTEXT, SUSCEPTIBLE TO AN OVERALL PRESENTATION. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, THREE BASIC OBJECTIVES MIGHT BE ADOPTED:

I. AFFIRMATION OF COMMUNITY EXTERNAL SOLIDARITY;

II. ACHIEVEMENT OF A HOMOGENEOUS ENERGY MARKET WITHIN THE COMMUNITY;

III. JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS.

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I. AFFIRMATION OF COMMUNITY EXTERNAL SOLIDARITY

AFFIRMATION OF COMMUNITY EXTERNAL SOLIDARITY SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING EXTERNAL DEPENDENCE AND TO THE SEARCH FOR SECURE AND REGULAR SUPPLIES AT ACCEPTABLE PRICES.

A. THE COMMUNITY ADOPTED, IN ITS RESOLUTION OF 17 DECEMBER 1974, AN OBJECTIVE OF REDUCTION TO 50 O/O AND IF POSSIBLE TO 40 O/O OF THE PROPORTION OF IMPORTED ENERGY IN 1985. IN ORDER TO MEET THIS ESSENTIAL GUIDELINE PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO AN ACTIVE ENERGY-SAVING POLICY. APART

FROM REGULATION ACTIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION, OBJECTIVES TO REDUCE ENERGY DEPENDENCE SHOULD BE FORMULATED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE MORE IMMEDIATELY PERCEPTIBLE TO CITIZENS AS A WHOLE, AND IMMEDIATE MEANS SHOULD BE SET UP FOR COORDINATED ACTIONS IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF ENERGY UTILIZATION, FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO DEMONSTRATION ACTIONS PARTLY TAKING THE FORM OF COMMUNITY AIDS COULD ACCOMPANY THESE ACTIONS.

B. THIS PERMANENT SOLIDARITY IN THE ENERGY SAVING EFFORT SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY SPECIFIC COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IN THE EVENT OF PETROLEUM SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINE ADOPTED IN ROME BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THIS IS THE AIM OF THE EXAMINATION IN PROGRESS IN COUNCIL ORGANS.

C. THIS SOLIDARITY MUST FINALLY BE AFFIRMED IN THE FIELD OF PETROLEUM AND GAS SUPPLIES. THIS INVOLVES THE ADOPTION IN COMMON, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, OF A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES ENSURING REGULAR SUPPLIES AT FAIR PRICES AND ABLE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN COMMITMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENTS AND TRANSFERRAL OF TECHNOLOGY. THIS IMPLIES THE SEARCH FOR CONSORTIUM GAS CONTRACTS ASSOCIATING THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF THE COMMUNITY. FINALLY, THIS COULD INVOLVE A JOINT SEARCH FOR, AND RUNNING OF, PETROLEUM DEPOSITS IN THE COMMUNITY OR IN OTHER AREAS OF DIVERSIFICATIONS.

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II. ACHIEVEMENT OF A HOMOGENEOUS ENERGY MARKET WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

SUITABLE INCENTIVES COULD BE PROVIDED FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN ENERGY PRODUCTS, TAKING THE DIVERSITY OF SITUATIONS INTO ACCOUNT.

A. AS REGARDS COAL, NATIONAL AIDS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN VARIETIES OF COAL WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF SEVERAL MEMBER STATES.

THE QUESTION OF AIDS FOR TRADE BETWEEN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES AND THEIR POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO A BETTER INTERPENETRATION OF COAL MARKETS, SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL EXAMINATION.

B. AS REGARDS ELECTRICITY AND GAS, DISTRIBUTOR COMPANIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK FOR INCREASED INTERCONNECTION OF NETWORKS. IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS INTERCONNECTION, THE JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

TO COPE WITH PEAK ELECTRICITY DEMANDS AND SEASONAL
GAS DEMAND SHOULD BE STUDIED. IN ADDITION, JOINT
RELIEF IS NECESSARY ON PENETRATION CONDITIONS IN
THE DIFFERENT COMMUNITY COUNTRIES OF GAS RESOURCES
TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE NORTH SEA OR TO BE IMPORTED
FROM MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. DEFINITION OF A UNIFIED
PROGRAMME OF NETWORKS FOR THE COLLECTION AND TRANS-
PORTATION OF GAS TO EUROPE WOULD, IN THIS RESPECT,
CONSTITUTE A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT DECISION.

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